

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05
NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 /085 W
-----035227 062319Z /62

R 051740Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8317
INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN
AMCONSUL KADUNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5705

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, NI
SUBJECT: THE CA: SHARIA GOES UNDERGROUND

REF: (A) LAGOS 5207, (B) LAGOS 5002, (C) LAGOS 1672

1. THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (CA) ADJOURNED TODAY AFTER COMPLETING ITS CONSIDERATION OF CHAPTER 3 (FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES) OF THE CONSTITUTION. THE ASSEMBLY WILL RECONVENE ON MAY 22 AND TURN ITS ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM OF REVENUE ALLOCATION.

2. ON THE ISSUE OF REVENUE ALLOCATION, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FMG HAS AT LONG LAST TURNED OVER TO CA THE TWO VOLUME STUDY PREPARED BY THE FMG WHICH THE CA HAD REQUESTED. (REF C). MCAS WHO HAVE STUDIED THE FMG REPORT HAVE INTIMATED TO US THAT IT IS BASED UPON THE PRINCIPLE THAT NO SPECIAL TREATMENT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE AREA OF THE COUNTRY WHICH IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING MUCH OF THE COUNTRY'S REVENUE, I.E., NO SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR RIVERS, BENDEL,

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IMO, CROSS RIVER STATES BECAUSE OF THE OIL. ACCORDING TO DR. JOSEPH AGBOWURO (ONDO), THE REPORT "RECOGNIZED THE FACT THAT WE LIVED ON GROUNDNUTS BEFORE, ON OIL NOW, AND WILL LIVE ON GROUNDNUTS IN THE FUTURE." MEMBERS ASSUME THAT MCAS FROM OIL-PRODUCING STATES WILL PROTEST BUT BE OVERWHELMINGLY OVERRIDEN.

3. COMMENT: SHARIA HAS APPARENTLY BECOME
A SUBTERRANEAN ISSUE. SOUTHERN MCAS TELL
US THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS PROCEEDING NORMALLY;
HOWEVER, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF CAUCUS MEETINGS
ON SHARIA TAKING PLACE AT THE SAME TIME. THE
SOUTHERNERS EXPECT THE ISSUE TO BE BROUGHT TO
THE FLOOR AGAIN AT THE FINAL READING OF THE
CONSTITUTION AND ARE CERTAIN THAT THEY WILL ONCE
AGAIN SOLIDLY DEFEAT IT.

WYMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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